

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04027 300724Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 CAB-02 FAA-00
DOTE-00 /087 W
-----035916 301537Z /72

R 300636Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9679
INFO CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4027

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, CH, HK
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF CAAC CHARTER FLIGHTS BETWEEN HONG KONG
AND CANTON

REF: 77 HONG KONG 14047

1. RECENT REPORTS IN THE LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS SUGGEST
CHINA MAY BE CONSIDERING SPECIAL CAAC CHARTER FLIGHTS
BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANTON. IN THIS CONNECTION A HONG
KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) SOURCE INDICATED TO CONGENOFF THAT
JARDINE AIRWAYS IS TRYING TO SELL THE IDEA TO THE PRC AS A
MEANS OF EASING THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS OF THOUSANDS
OF VISITORS TO THE SPRING AND AUTUMN FAIRS. JARDINE, WHICH
HANDLED THE CAAC PERISHABLE CARGO FLIGHTS LAST FALL
(REFTEL A), HAS OF COURSE AGAIN OFFERED ITS SERVICES AS
LOCAL AGENT AND REPRESENTATIVE.

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2. THE HKG IS TAKING APASSIVE ROLE IN THE MATTER,
WAITING FOR CHINA TO RESPOND. PEKING IS UNLIKELY TO
APPROACH THE HKG OFFICIALLY; RATHER, IF THE PRC AGREES,
JARDINE WILL REQUEST LANDING CLEARANCES. WHILE AIR
SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANTON WOULD GREATLY
FACILITATE MATTERS FOR FOREIGN FAIR VISITORS, CHINA

HAS NOT SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN THIS ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT TRAIN CONNECTION. RATHER, CHINESE EFFORTS APPEAR TO BE FOCUSED UPON STREAMLINING VISA AND BORDER FORMALITIES.

3. THE SOURCE ADDED THAT THE HKG COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT TAIWAN'S CHINA AIRLINES (CAL) AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE ON THE GROUND AT THE SAME TIME CAAC LANDED. THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH HAS PREVENTED PRC USE OF THE HONG KONG AIRPORT IN THE PAST. PEKING'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW CAAC CARGO FLIGHTS TO LAND HERE WITHOUT RAISING THE CAL QUESTION SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATER CHINESE FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT.

4. COORDINATED WITH USDLO HONG KONG.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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